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set at defiance, by persons they have accused of breaking the law. I find the *Police Gazette* suppressed, and *Holt's Army and Navy Despatch* selling thousands 'stamped and unstamped,' that is, with the direct sanction of the Stamp Office, and this last has not even been threatened.

You perceive that no safe opinion can be gathered from observing this unequal enforcement of the law, and I am therefore compelled once more to ask a reply from you, by which I may guide my proceedings.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
"J. ALFRED NOVELLO.

"To Sir Alexander J. E. Cockburn,
Her Majesty's Attorney-General."

The following letter was received July 7th:—

"40, Hertford-street, July, 1854.

"SIR,—I very much regret that I am not in a position to give you an answer to your question, as to whether any proceedings are to be taken against you for publishing the *Musical Times* without a stamp.

"The delay has arisen from the following cause. The subject of the enforcement of the stamp duty on newspapers has been referred to me, with a view to my making a report thereon to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"This I fully intended to have done in the course of last week, but unfortunately the serious illness of Mr. Gladstone has prevented the possibility of my communicating with him on the subject. As soon as Mr. Gladstone is in a condition to see me, I shall seek the earliest opportunity of going fully into the subject with him, and as soon as any resolution is taken I will take care that you shall be immediately apprized of the result. But, as I am only acting ministerially in the matter, and the decision as to the course to be pursued rests not with me but with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, you will I am sure concur with me, that I should not be justified in giving my individual opinion until I have communicated with him.

"Upon the law of the matter, and the liability of what are called class publications to payment of the stamp duty where they convey intelligence, I need not hesitate to say that I entertain no doubt; but how far that liability should be enforced as a matter of policy—or whether, since the recent resolution of the House of Commons, Her Majesty's Government can exercise any discretion in the matter, is a question for the minister at the Head of the Financial department, and not for the Law Officer to determine.

"The decision that may be come to on the general question will obviously have a material bearing on your case.

"I sincerely regret that you should be kept in any suspense on the subject, but for the moment this is inevitable. I can only say that there is not, I am quite sure, the slightest disposition in any quarter to subject you to any annoyance or to act hostilely towards the very meritorious publication with which you are connected.

"I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,
"A. E. COCKBURN.

"Alfred Novello, Esq."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal will be published fortnightly until August next, on the 1st and 15th of the month.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes *are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.*

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

H. A.—*We must decline to enter into the discussion of organists' salaries. We think it useless, so long as from twenty to fifty candidates ordinarily present themselves on the occasion of every vacancy.*

"ONE WHO DOES NOT WISH LIGHTLY TO GRUMBLE, (?)" *will find a larger proportion of Choir and Chorus-singing in the present number.*

Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

MR. STERNDALE BENNETT'S Morning Performance of Classical Chamber Music took place at the Hanover-square Rooms, on the 3rd inst. The programme included the choicest music of its kind, performed with rare excellence. The most finished piece of instrumental execution, and the most finished piece of vocal execution of the morning, each received the compliment of an encore. The former was a spirited and interesting chaconne of Sebastian Bach's, for violin and pianoforte, admirably rendered by M. Vieuxtemps and Mr. Bennett; and the latter was Haydn's charming canzonet of "Recollection," to the tender sentiment and pathos of which perfect justice was done by Madame Clara Novello. Mr. Sterndale Bennett performed some very elegant and musician-like studies of his own composition, in a style both masterly and graceful. He is a pianist of whom England may well be proud.

THE WARWICK STREET SCHOOLS gave a concert in aid of their funds, on the morning of July the 7th. Several names of distinguished rank headed the programme as lady-patronesses.

MADAME SONTAG.—It is with regret we learn the sudden demise of this celebrated vocalist, in the city of Mexico. She was attacked with cholera on the 11th of June, when she had been announced to appear in *Lucrezia Borgia.* The performance of the opera was postponed, and Madame Sontag became rather better on the 16th; but a relapse occurred, and she died on the 17th. The event caused a general sensation of grief among the citizens of Mexico. She was buried at the church of San Fernandez, on the 19th. An immense concourse was present, including the members of the Philharmonic Society, most of the artists who were present in the city, and a number of foreign ministers.

MANCHESTER—REED BAND COMPETITION AT BELLE VUE GARDENS.—A number of reed bands from various towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire competed at the Belle Vue Gardens for four prizes. Each band played two pieces of its own selection. The Burnley Mechanics' Institution band (twenty-four performers) obtained the first prize, which was a sum of £16, and an elegant cocoawood clarionet, presented by Mr. J. Higham, of Victoria-street, in this city. The second prize (£9) was won by the Worsley Temperance band; the third (£5) by the Ancient Shepherd's band, Stalybridge; the fourth (£3) by the Hartshead band, Ashton.

HULL.—The 15th public performance of the Kingston Sacred Musical Society, took place under the management of Mr. R. W. Hall. The whole of the solos were by resident performers.

HERR ROSENHAIN, the pianist and composer, gave a concert at the Hanover Square Rooms, on the 6th inst. The concert consisted almost entirely of his own compositions, and his performance of these proclaimed him at once the accomplished musician and elegant player. Herr Rosenhain received a very hearty welcome; and we noticed among his many admirers, one who had come to pay a special tribute to his talents and genius,—no less an artist than the celebrated John Cramer.

EDINBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.—Extract from the Annual Report: "A large proportion of the children have made more or less progress in vocal music, and a considerable number, including about twenty pupil-teachers, are able to sing very difficult music, both religious and secular, with unusual accuracy and expression. With respect to the marked success which has attended the teaching of music in the Edinburgh schools, which far surpasses what I have seen elsewhere, the following statement has been communicated to me by the professor, Mr. William Dickson, to whose ability and perseverance that success is due. 'I beg to state, in accordance with your desire, that I think any little superiority you are pleased to say the schools in Edinburgh have acquired is to be attributed to the particular system or application of what are called the solfeggio syllables. The great merit of the system consists in placing the syllable *do* on every major key note. I believe it is called the *old English system*, and is the one whereby the northern counties of England are so famous for their choral singers.'"

NEW YORK.—The local papers give accounts of the Grand Musical Congress under the direction of M. Jullien. There seems to have been music to suit all tastes; as we find the programme to include selections from Handel's *Messiah*, and Haydn's *Creation*, with the "Fireman's Quadrille," Bristow's "Minuet," Fry's "Breaking Heart," and Mr. Ap Thomas on the harp. *Pecuniarily*, we are informed, the Musical Congress was a great success.

REDDITCH.—A Philharmonic Society has been established here, with Robert Clive, M.P., for its President; it now numbers nearly 50 members.

THE PENRITH CHORAL SOCIETY gave its second concert on the 23rd of June. A selection from Haydn's *Creation*, and some miscellaneous secular pieces, formed the entertainment.

NEW SONGS sung by MADAME CLARA NOVELLO. "Lidi Amati," Romanza, composed and dedicated to Madame Clara Novello by ADOLFO SCHIMON. Embellished with a Portrait of Madame Clara Novello, after Wallace Scott, engraved by W. Humphrys. Price 2s. "Ah se giungo," Cavatina, composed by CAGNIONE. Embellished with a Portrait of Madame Clara Novello, after Edward Magnus of Berlin, engraved by W. Humphrys. Price 2s. 6d.

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